

A Miracle, of Miracles.

As fearefull as euer was scene or heard of in the
memorie of M A N.

Which lately happened at *Dichet* in Sommerfetshire, and sent
by diuers credible witnessess to be published in L O N D O N.

Also a Propheſie reuealed by a poore Countrey Maide, who being dead the
firſt of OCTOBER laſt, 1613. 24. houres, reuiued againe, and lay five
dayes weeping, and continued prophesying of ſtrange euents to
come, and ſo died the 5. day following.

Witnessed by M. *Nicholas Faber*, Parſon of the Towne, and diuers
worthy Gentlemen of the ſame countrey. 1613,

Withall, Lincolneſhire Teares. For a great deluge, in which five Villages
were lamentably drowned this preſent month.



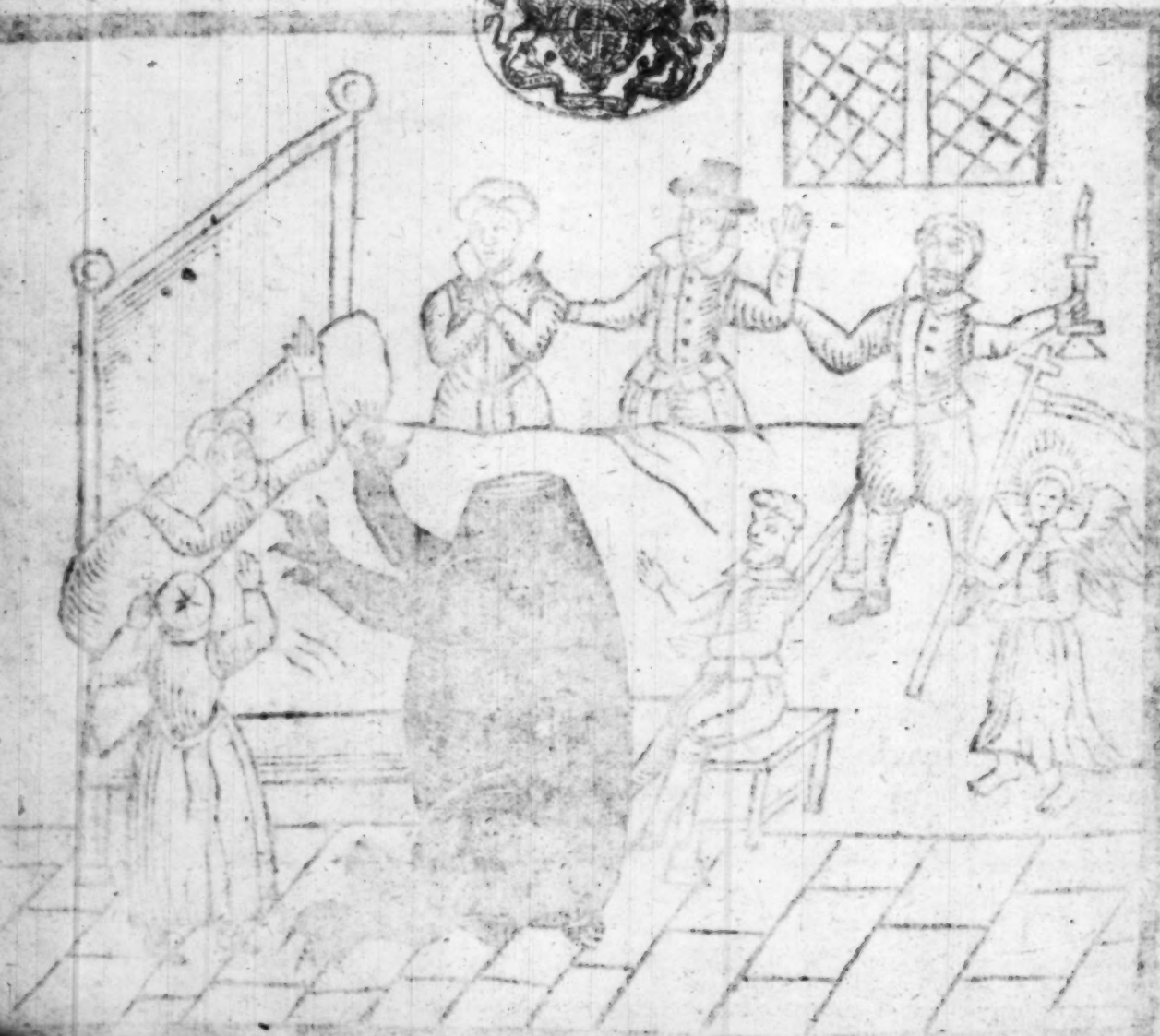
At London printed for *John Trundle*: and are to be ſold
at Chriſt Church gate. 1614.

A Miracle of Miracles.

As fearful as ever was seen or heard of in the
 memory of Man.

Which lately happened at Dares in Somersetshire, and for
 by divers credible witnesses to be published in London.
 Also a Prophecy revealed by a poor Country Maid, who being dead
 first of October last, 1613. 24. hours, revived again, and lay five
 days waking, and continued to be full of prophecies to
 come, and is since the 7. day following.

Witnessed by M. Nicholas Fayer, Parson of the Towne, and divers
 worthy Gentlemen of the same country. 1613.
 Wm. Wall, Lincolneshire, was the first deluge in which the Village
 were laid in great trouble.



All orders printed for John Tynan; and are to be sold
 at Christ Church Lane. 1613.



TO MY LOVING
FRIENDS AND READERS
IN LONDON.

BELOVED and courteous friends
and Readers, wee haue to consider by
this strange discourse, how ready Sa-
than is to take hold on vs, if wee fall
from God neuer so little. Hee conti-
nually runneth vp and downe, seeking whom hee
may deuoure: But notwithstanding his temptati-
ons, which are great, the mercie of God is greater,
who neuer faileth to send comfort in temptation,
if we accept thereof.

Great are the examples both of Gods mercie
and might, to put vs in remembrance of our sinnes
which are infinite and loathsome, wherein if wee
continue, let vs vndoubtedly looke for the reward
thereof, which is an euerlasting destruction both of
bodie and soule.

Let not this which is heere declared seeme a fai-
ned fable vnto thee, but assure thy selfe that all such
things are sent as warnings for our wickednes, and
to put vs in mind of the stay of our saluation, which

To the Reader.

is an assured faith in Christ Iesus : from which pillar if wee once shrinke, the Tempter is readie to driue vs into despaire of Gods mercie.

Many are the wonders which haue lately happened, as of sodaine and strange death vpon periured persons, strange sights in the Ayre, strange births on the Earth, Earthquakes, Commets, and fierie Impressions, with the execution of G O D himselfe from his holy fire in heauen, on the wretched man and his wife, at *Holphurst* in Hampshire; written by that worthy Minister maister *Hilliard*; and all to put vs in minde of God, whose workes are wonderfull.

These and such like examples (good Reader) warneth vs to bee watchfull for the day of the Lord which is at hand, least sodainely his wrath be kindled against vs. Let vs therefore pray to Almighty God to hold back his rodde, to be mercifull to vs, and to forgiue vs that is past: that through the assistance of his Spirit, wee may with penitent hearts liue in his feare to
our liues end.

Your friend, T.I.



STRANGE NEVVES

out of Sommerfetshire.



Upon the ninth day of Septemb. last past, there was a peonant of honest reputation, dwelling in the towne of Diche, which is within three myles of Bruton (the most ancient towne within Sommerfetshire) whose name is Steuen Cooper, a man of good wealth, and well beloued of his neighbours: who beeing sicke, and lying in a weake state, sent his wife (whose name was Margaret Cooper) vpon the ninth day of Sept. past into Glocester-shire, to take order concerning a Farme which he hath in a village called Rockhampton, alias Rockington, at whose comming thither, it seemed all things were not according to her minde. Thus continuing there one day and something more, shee returned home to her husband, partly agriened at such things as shee thought her husband might reforme, if God lent him life. Now when shee was come home againe to Diche, she found her husband recovered to an indifferent health: to whom shee begaune to vse very much 'idle talke, as well concerning the same Farme, as also concerning an olde groate which her sonne (being a little boy) had found about

Strange Newes

about one weeke befoze. Thus shee continued (as it were one that had beene bewitched or haunted with an euill Spirit) vntill Tuesday at night following, which night she tooke her rest something indifferently vntill towards the morning: at which time shee began with much vaine speech to disquiet her husband, and to vse much idle talke: but her husband seeing her in such a minde, and finding that shee was as it were one that were desperate, hee perswaded her to call vpon God, and that being the creature of God, shee should not forget to call vpon her Creatour in the day of trouble, wherefoze he counselled her to pray with him, and to say the Lords Prayer after him, which she partly did. But the Diuell, who alway doth build his Chappell so neere as hee may to bere Gods Church, began to withdraue her from Prayer, and to put her in minde to call in most fearefull sort for the groat which her sonne had lately found, as also for her Wedding Ring, desiring to see them with all speed: her husband made no great hast thereunto, but continued in Prayer, that it would please G D, to send her a more quiet spirit and to strengthen her, that faith might speedily vanquish such vantiy in her. But the more hee prayed and perswaded her to Prayer, the more shee seemed to bee as it were troubled with some euill spirit, calling still for the olde groat, which her husband neglected to shew her: whereat she began with a very sterne and staring countenance to looke on her husband in most wonderfull sort, so that hee was soze frighted with the same. Then he called for her sister, for that he was not able to keepe her in her bed: which when her sister and other were come in'o the Chamber, they kept her downe violently in the bed: and forthwith shee was so soze tormented, that shee foamed at the mouth, and was shaken with such force, that the bed and the Chamber did shake and moue in most strange sort:

out of Sommerſetſhire.

ſort: her husband continued praying for her deliverance: so that within one halfe houre after her ſhaking was leſt, ſhee began to tell them that ſhe had been in the Towne to beate away the Beare which followed her into the yard when ſhee came out of the Countrie, which to her thinking had no head. Then her husband and friends wiſhed her to leane thoſe vaine imaginations, perſwaded her that it was nothing but the lightnes of her braine, which was become idle for want of reſt. Wherefore her husband and friends exhorted her to ſay the Lords prayer with them, which ſhe did, and after tooke ſmall reſt. And thus ſhe remained untill the Sunday following: in which time ſhe continued raging as it were beſtraught of her memory, which came by fits, to the great grieve of her husband, friends, and neighbours. Upon the Saturday following there was good hope of her recovery, for that ſhee in the night beſore had taken ſome reaſonable reſt: her friends and neighbours came to comfort her, yet ſometime ſhee would talke ſomewhat idly to them, which came by ſmall ſittes. And upon the Sunday ſhee ſeemed very patient and conformable to reaſon, untill midnight: at which time the Candle, which was ſet burning in the ſame Chamber, was burned out. She then ſuddenly waking, called to her husband, and cried out, ſaying that ſhe did ſee a ſtrange thing like unto a Snaille, carryng fire in moſt wonderfull ſort. Whereat her husband was amazed: and ſeing the Candle was cleane burnt out, called to his brother and ſiſter that were in the houſe with other of their friends watching and ſitting by, to comfort her if her extreame fit ſhould any way moleſt her, who hearing her husband call, came in and brought a Candle lighted, and ſet it on the Table which ſtood neere where the woman lay. She began then to ſweare as one very fearefull, ſaying to her husband and the reſt: doe not you ſee the Diuell? Whereat they de-

Strange Newes

fired her to remember **G D D**, and to call for grace, that her faith might bee onely fixed vpon him to the vanquishing of the Diuell, and his assaults. Well (quoth she) if you see nothing now, you shall see something by and by: and forthwith they heard a noise in the street, as it had been the coming of two or three Carts, and presently they in the chamber cryed out saying, Lord helpe vs, what manner of thing is this that commeth heere? Then her husband looking vp in his bed, espied a thing come to the bed much like vnto a Beare, but it had no head nor tayle, halfe a yard in length, and halfe a yard in height: her husband seeing it come to the bed rose vp, and tooke a ioynted stole and strooke at the said thing, the stroke sounded as though he had stroken vpon a featherbed: then it came to the woman and strooke her three times vpon the feete, and tooke her out of the bed and so rouled her too and fro in the chamber, and vnder the bed. The people there present, to the number of seven persons, were so greatly amazed with this horrible sight that they knew not what to doe, yet they called still vpon **G D D** for his assistance: but the Candle was so dimme, that they could scarcely see one another. At the last this Monster, which we suppose to be the Diuell, did thrust the womans head betwixt her legges, and so rouled her in a round compasse like an hoope through three other Chambers downe an high paire of staires in the Hall where hee kept her the space of a quarter of an houre. Her husband, and they in the Chamber about durst not come downe to her, but remained in prayer weeping at the staires head, grievously lamenting to see her so carried away. There was such an horrible stinke in the Hall, and such fierie flames, that they were glad to stoppe their noses with cloathes and napkins. Then the woman cryed out, calling to her husband, Now he is gone. Then (quoth hee) in the name
of

out of Sommerfetshire.

of **G D** come vp to mee. And so euen upon the so-
daine she was come so quickly that they greatly marua-
led at it. Then they brought her to bed, and foure of
them kept downe the cloathes about the bed, and conti-
nued in prayer for her. The Candle in the Chamber
could not burne cleere, but was very dimme, and sud-
denly the woman was got out of the bed, and the win-
dowe at the beds head opened: whether the woman did
vnpin the window or how it came to passe they knewe
not, but it was opened, and the womans legges after a
maruellous manner thrust out at the window, so that
they were clasped about the posse in the middle of the
windowe, betwesne her legges. The people in the cham-
ber heard a thing knocke at her feete as it had beene
vpon a Tubbe, and they saw a great fire, as it seemed to
them, at her feete, the stinke whereof was horrible. The
sorrowfull husband and his Brother imboldens them-
selues in the Lord, and did charge the Diuell in the
name of the Father, the Sonne, and the Holy Ghost,
to depart from her, and to trouble her no more. Then
they laide hands on her, and cryed to the Lord to helpe
them in that their great neede, and so puld her in againe,
and set her vpon her feet. Then she looked out at a win-
dow, and began to say, O Lord (quoth she) me thinke
I see a little Childe: but they gaue no regard to her.
These words she spake two or thre times. So at the
last they all looked out at the window: and loe they
espied a thing like vnto a little Childe, with a very
bryght shining countenance, casting a great light in
the Chamber, and then the Candle burned verie
bryghtly, so that they might one see another. Then
fell they flat to the ground, and praised the **L O R D**
that hee had so wonderfully assisted them, and so the
Childe banished away. Then the woman being in some

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better feeling of her selfe, was laide in her bed, and
shee asked forgiveness at Gods hands, and of all that
shee had offended, acknowledging that it was for her
sins that shee was so tormented of the euill Spirit.

And so God bee thanked shee hath ever since been

in some reasonable order, for there hath been

with her many godly learned men

from diuers places of the

Countrey.

FINIS.

23 JY 68

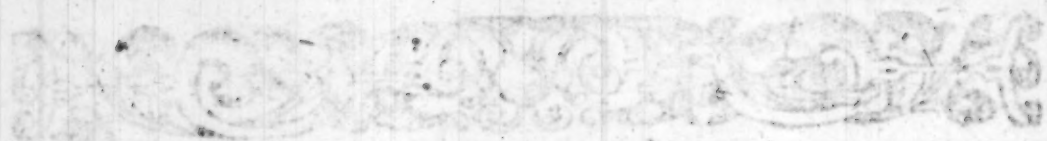
These



These bee the names of the Witnesses,
that it is most true.

Steuën Cooper.
Iohn Cooper.
Alis Easton.
Iohn Tomson.
Iohn Anderton.
Myles Foster.
With diuers others.





These be the names of the Winnef
that is most true

Steven C. Cooper

John Cooper

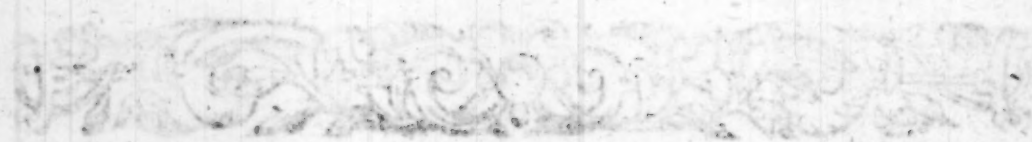
Alis E. Foster

John T. Foster

23 JY 68

Alis E. Foster

With direct orders





THE
VV O N D E R F V L L

worke of G O D, shewed by a

Prophesie of a poore Countrey mans

Daughter in G E R M A N Y.

1613.



V O N the first of October last
past, 1613. There was a marriage
solemnized at Rostorfe, a mile
distant from Melwing, in Germa-
ny, betweene one James Cranisen,
an honest ~~Townes~~ man: and
one Margaret Henslers, the daugh-
ter of Hans Steeman of Melwing,

deceased. This James had beene seruant and Clarke,
vnto the worshipfull maister George Ramys Gentle-
man, the time of twelue yeres, who was (by his Ma-
ster and sundry other persons of good calling,) brought
to the Church, and at their returne were conducted to
his Masters house againe, who had prepared for him
and his guests, a sufficient Feast, at his owne costs and
charges: and although this James was but a husband-
mans Sonne, yet was hee beloued of the whole inhabi-
tants, and that of the chiefest sort. Thus was this Feast
kept in good order, with great Leue and quietnesse: mix-
ing

The Propheſie of a poore

ing with their meate, honeſt mirth, well liked, and noted of ſundry Nobles and Gentlemen, beeing preſent at the ſame Feaſt, and inhabiting thereabouts.

The next day following, a young maide of the age of foureteene yeares, beeing Siſter to the Bridegroom, came to the wedding-houſe to her Brother, bringing with her the Daughter of one Simon Franiken of Melwing: both which after they had ſeene the houſe, and in what order things ſtood, were deſirous to ſee the Daughter of the Worſhipfull Maſter George van Ramyttes, whole name was Miſtris Annys: who beeing in the Chamber, they both went to viſite her, and doing their duties, they demanded how ſhe did: ſhe answered, indifferent well. Then the two Maides ſate downe by her, where together they conferred of many matters, eſpecially, as concerning their attire and apparell. The Bridegroom, before ſpecified, had made his Siſter a ſilk vpper-body, with which ſhee had drefſed her ſelfe as handſomely as ſhee might, and withall ſhe wore the beſt and ſeemlieſt apparell that ſhe had put on for that day. But the Gentlewoman ſeeing it, beganne to ſloute at her, ſaying: Can thy Father cloath thee thus, and ſeeme ſo poore? Alas Miſtreſſe (quoth the Maide) hitherto my poore Father hath alwaies to his power apparelled me: but this which you ſee, my Brother hath beſtowed on mee, to doe him honour at his marriage: God knoweth who ſhall weare it out, how long I ſhall owe it, or when I ſhall put it on again. And though wee bee poore in goods, I truſt God will make vs rich in Spirit, and ſo ſhee helde her peace, departing for a fine Cake and Wine, wherewith they made merry. Soone after, the Citizens Daughter that was well apparelled (and ſomewhat vaine-glorious withall) ſaid that her mother gaue her all things ſhee could get,, but her Father was ſo hard, that ſhee might not weare that ſhe had, but was faine to keep it from his ſight.

Countrey mans Daughter.

Eight. The Gentlewoman replied, saying: my Father himselfe me wears what I will, and if it were not for offence vnto the Nobilitie, hee would apparell mee like a Princess: and therewithall shee caused sundry faire Jewels and Chaynes to be taken forth of her Chests, which were very curiously wrought, and caused great admiration vnto the beholders. The poore Countrey Maide that knew no Pride, nor had any such attire to boast on, held her peace, accounted her selfe with her povertie, as acceptable before God, as the richest or fairest of those fine Dames present: saying inwardly to her selfe, God is a lealous God, he hateth Pride, he punisheth the vn-righteous, he comforteth the poore, which haue no delight therein: and maintaineth them that are continually bent to the seruice of him.

After that al together had talked their pleasures, to their contentment: euery one severally tooke their leaue one of another, and after a while departed to the houses of their Parents.

The third day after this Marriage was solemnized, all the ioy was turned into heavinesse, for the death of two of the Maidens before mentioned: namely, the Daughter to the Gentleman, and the Sister of the Bridegroom, who died both in one afternoone, betwene thre and foure of the clocke. This so sodaine death, brought great terrour and feare vnto their Parents, and also to the hearers thereof, insomuch that some thought them to be poysoned, and other gaue scyth their iudgements according to their fantasies.

The next day after, preparation was made for their buriall: Nicholas Faber, Parson of that Villidge, would haue had them both buried in one grane, but the Gentleman would not. Great lamentation was made for both these Maidens, the Gentleman and his friends, for the losse of his Daughter: and the Father and Mother, with
her

A Prophecie of a poore

her Brother and Friends, for the losse of their godly Childe. Now the Mother of this poore Paide, understanding that her neighbours were in hand to winde her up, and so to send her to the earth: came vnto them and desired that shee might yet once more see her Daughter, which they willingly granted: so they went altogether to the dead Corpses, (which had been laid forth, the full space of two and twenty houres) and the Mother lifted vp the sheete, sighing, purposing then to take her last farewell, and sight of her deare Daughter, whom shee so tenderly loued. But contrarie to her expectation, and of all the beholders, her Daughter, even as one awaked from a slumber, raised vp herselfe, and with a milde and cheerefull countenance, spake vnto her Mother as followeth. My most deere Mother, why haue you sinned so sore against G D D? You haue made me sorrowfull many times, but bee you content, G D D hath forgiven all, for I am sent as a messenger to you, and within five daies I shall returne againe to the place I came from, where I shall liue in all peace. Therewith they fetcht her cloathes, which shee put on, and walking with them, she demanded meate.

This sodaine sight amazed the beholders, for they looked for some other meaning in it. But where as this Paide was seldome before seene to be merry, They now perceiued her more cheerefull, and with a pleasant disposed countenance, so that the apparant show of her lecture was wonderfull to beholde, then meate was brought, and she did eate in all mens sight, digesting it naturally.

Diuers of the cheefe of the Towne came to see this strange euent, where after many speeches by them offered the Paide requited silence, and to them all she said.

Beloued Christians, wonder not that I haue ben a
short

[*Cowntrey mans Daughter.*]

Short time from you: but be thankfull to God, that he hath certified you by sundry signes, how the ende of the world is at hand, and the day of rest comming to reioyce vs: Our charge shall be taken away, and our trauaile haue an ende: Let vs make our selues ready against the Sabaoth of our Saviour, the onely true Sonne of God. Let vs now with pure hearts, prepare to meete the heauenly Bridegroom, that with him wee may enter into his euerlasting Kingdome, where we shall enioy eternall life.

Maister Nicholas Faber, (Parson of the Towne) demanded of her where she had bene? To whom she answered: I was ouertaken nere the bridge of the Brook, by a comely olde man, with a long gray Beard, who saluted me, saying: Daughter, whether wilt thou? Is thy Father at home? I answered yea. Then said he to mee, come my louing Daughter, I must needes talke with thee, and tell thee that which as yet is hidde from thee, so great effect dependeth thereupon. And be not afrayde, let the grace of God suffice thee, and looke that you conceale not my words, but reueale them to others: tell what I shew you, vnto olde and young.

So wee came to a faire costly Foyste, (no Princes Court like it, nor any earthly building to bee compared vnto it,) where we were let in. In which place, wee saw many bright Angels, shining like the beames of the Sun all singing melodiously with cleare voyces: Holy, holy, holy, is our Lord God of Saboath. Among which I knew a great number: But the olde man forbade me to speak vnto any. Forthwith I was brought againe to the Brook, where he ouertok me: I became very peniue, when I thought of the worthines of the place where I had ben.

But the old man, willed me to rest contented, so this short time shall quickly haue an end, and within few daies thou shalt be brought againe into this place.

The Propheſie of a poore

He willed me, beſides, to manifeſt (vnto the Penitent) the mercy of **G D D**, and to ſay vnto the world, that he is bent to wrath: cheefly to thoſe that deſpiſe, and giue no credite to his examples, which hee miraculoſly hath ſhewed vnto his people. Theſe are but warnings ſent vs, to mollifie our hard hearts, and to admoniſh vs from the deteſtable Pride, which is heere maintained, becauſe beſore **G D D** you ſhall finde it damnable.

O people full of contempt, deſpiſing one another, ſome for Riches, ſome for Beauty, others for Wiſedome, ſome for one thing, ſome for another: where as beſore **G D D**, we are all alike with him, poore and rich: notwithstanding, he will not goe forward with his anger, hee will hold his hand, and moderate it with mercie, if he finde but ſome ſmall number, penitent for their finnes.

If you amend not, and turne to **G D D**, hee will forthwith ſend on you a generall alteration, and ſuch an one, as not onely men, but Birds of the ayre and all liuing things, ſhall tremble at his wrath. Warres ſhall greatly greene the earth, and they ſhall deſtroy Countreyes and people: Men ſhall bee moſt greenouſly chaſed from their houſes, and moſt miſerably murdered. And beſore this happen, there ſhall come a great dearth: and then God will take his owne that haue turned vnto him, not ſuffering them to ſee this miſerie: but thoſe that liue after, ſhall truly ſeele the wrath of God, ſo that thoſe which remaine in the third yeere, ſhall well ſay, Where haue you beene, that you are not yet deſtroyed: Many for feare ſhall decay: there ſhall bee great Earthquakes, through which, Townes and Temples, Caſtles, Fortes and houſes ſhall be throwen down on heapes. Then ſhall follow ſuch miſhap, as is not neceſſary to be ſpoken of, for the ſin of the people is abhominable & curſed beſore God.

After

Countrey mans Daughter.

After this great and terrible trouble, there shall great Peace arise, and the people shall live in great tranquillitie: there shall be want of learned men, and good Kalers: wherefore good people, let this terrifie your pride, being even the whole puddle of sinne, and the roote of abomination.

The cloathes which Mistresse Annys did weare, for the pride and vaine-glorie of her Parents, they shall become loathsome to all persons, whereby none shall be able to weare them, but shall remaine as a necessarie example to all persons. This speech thus spoken, was marked of many: and others were inquisitive, to see the cloths: which being stirred, there arose a great and detestable stinke, that no man could either weare them, or abide by them. Which strange thing, the good Gentlewoman her Mother considering: caused the said Chamber to be walled in, so that none may come to them any way. Thus the Maide continued in these and sundry such other speeches.

In the meane time, diuers learned Preachers came vnto her, and talked with her, as concerning Spirituall matters, which she was glad of. To whom she yalded hartly thanks, signifying to them, that the fift day was now come, wherein she should be taken from the world. But before she departed, she was desirous to receiue the Sacrament, and Christian Communion of the body and blood of Christ, which Maister Nicholas Faber did minister vnto her: And all that day hee did reason with her: to whom she vttered such godly reasons, as it made him maruellously astonied.

Many people came to see her at that day, and to see what would fall out. Then meat was brought, and she sat down at the Table, she said Grace, thanked God, and blessed her Father and Mother, and instantly desired her Bro-

A Prophecie of a poore

ther, that he would honour his Parents, and not to leave them in their olde age: in so doing, he should be rewarded with the blessing of God.

Maister Faber came now againe to visite her (as his manner was) and he said unto her, how doe you? To whom she friendly gave her hand, and smiling, thanked him of his paines which he had taken with her.

Then for a last farewell, she rehearsed all the warnings to the people, desiring them, not to bee unkindfull of them: And anon after, betwixt one and two of the

clocke, patiently sitting in a Chaire, she committed her Soule to God; and yielded up the Ghost.

Being the 6. of the said Moneth of October. 1613.

FINIS.

23 IV 68



The names of certain men of good
worship and credite, that were
then present.

Maister Nicholas Faber, Parson of the said Towne,

Maister George van Ramyttes.

Maister Ioachim Schiell of Melwing.

Maister Peter Schulban of Melwing.

Adam Dorhoff of Margenberg.

Hans Ronneman, Scowt of the Towne.

Maister Stephen.

Lawrence the Schoolemaister.

Hans Lidwig: And *Peter Barchart.*

Maister Knaet Clighton, *Berger* and Super-
intendent of Melwing, *had the examination*
of the trueth, before it was publi-
shed in Print.





The names of certain men of good
worschip and credite, that were
then present.

Maister Nicholas Faber, Parson of the said Towne.
Maister George van Ransw. .
Maister Joachym Schell of Melsing.
Maister Peter Schulten of Melsing.
Adam Dierhoff of Mersburg.
Hans Koenen, Secrer of the Towne.
Maister Stephen.
Lawrence the Schoolmaister.
Hans Ludwig: And Peter Barckart.

Maister Knut Clifton, Berger and Super-
intendent of the town, had the examination
of the treaty, before it was publi-
shed in Print.





LAMENTABLE

Newes out of *Lincolne-shire* of the ouer-
flowing of waters, breaking from the Seas, which
drowned 5. Villages with all their goods and cattell,
with other places of the Land, this present month
of Nouember: 1613. to the great hurt of
many people there dwelling.

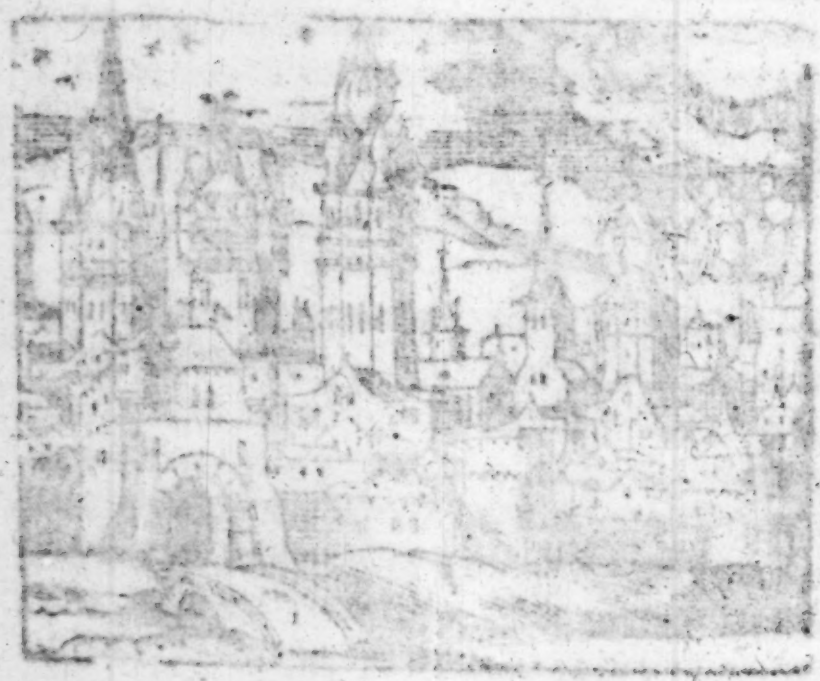


At London printed for IOHN TRVNDLE: and are to be sold at
Christ Church gate. 1614.



LAMENTABLE

Nerves out of Lincolnshire - five of the other
floating of water, breaking from the sea, which
drowned 2. Villages their goods and cattle,
with other places, this present month
of November 1793. to the great hurt of
many people there dwelling.



THE OVERFLOWING OF

Waters, breaking from the Seas in the County of Lincolne, with other places of the Land, this present month of Nouember, to the great hurt of many people there dwelling.



If wee doe consider the estate of man-kinde aright, we shal find by experience how sodaine is his fall, and we see the man that hath liu'd many yeeres, carefully getting together wealth in abundance, in a moment is vndone, and brought to nothing. as for example, this present month of Nouember, brings vs sufficient witness, where in Lincolne-shire, that plentiful country, that soile so large and full of increase, as well of Cattell, as other sowles of the earth, hath lately felt the vnrresisting force of waters, by the raging and vnruly windes blowne ouer the sea Bankes, where many hundreds of people, were even forced by the sodainnes thereof to shift for their liues, leauing all the substance they inioyed to the mercy of the commanding floods.

And now to beginne the discourse of my lamentable reports, heare vnto the Towne of Wisbidge, one of the principal market townes in that county of Lincolne, is situate a Village called Long-sutton, a place for husbandry and pasture grounds answerable to most in that country, but by reason of the marshy and fenny vallies adioining to the same, the most part thereof hath bene lately overflowed: for the winde then sitting North and North-east, beating the seas so violently against the shores, by which meanes the commanded waters exceeded their bounds with such

Lamentable Newes

force, that their mighty bankes were not able to containe them.

At the first entrance of this watery conquerour, it is said it appeared to the inhabitants a far off, like unto a cloud roaling out of the Skies, or a storm of raine, by the winds blowne nearer and nearer, but approaching to the sight of men, it seemed to bee a second deluge: a feare so sodaine, that well was that man that by flight could preserve his life: not one place, not one field, not one village, nor one towne received hurt by the overflowing of these waters, but many: yea, many were the losses comming thereby: for it is well knowne, and by true reports iustified, that nere unto Long-Sutton aforesaid, some eightene or twenty villages had share of this lamentable spoile, & as much ground overflowed as is compassed in the circuit of sixtene miles, all the low parts of that country stood like the maine Ocean, or the Zuyck seas betwixt Holland and Zeland, where nothing is left in sight above waters but pinacles and Church Steeples: so was here at that wooll time, nothing scene but the upper parts of houses, and the tops of trees: the fury and strength of the salt waters thus broke in so preuailed, that they ouerturned whole stacks and Ricks of Pease and Beanes, and carried them away like floating ships into the maine ocean.

It is also credibly reported, that aboue two thousand head of cattell, besides many thousands of sheepe perished in the same floods, and no helmes of them as yet to be heard of, but onely some few, scattering here and there, floating vpon the waters ten or twelue myles from the owners, the rest are supposed to be boyn into the sea, whose deuouring wombe is able to drench by all the wealth that remaines vpon the land, for the sea is much more larger and richer then all the world beside: therefore let vs pray that the Lord with his mighty and strong arme, may keepe vs from the Rigour of this mercilesse inuader, and so strengthen

out of Lincolneshire.

then her bankes, that she may be kept within hir bounds, otherwise unhappy shall we be in this northerne part of the world, but now againe to our purpose.

At those Villages bordering nearest vpon the sea coasts many of the inhabitants were forced in safeguare of their liues to climb the tops of trees, and there sate staruing in the cold day & night, untill Boates came to pferue them, likewise vpon house tops, and the Leads of churches, sate both men, women, and children, whose frighted friends supposed them to be buried in the deepe waues: but amongst all these lamentable reports, this one is most wonderfull of a Lincolne-shire man that swomme a long mile bearing his wife and two children vpon his backe to saue them from drowning, whose loue and aduenture herein deserueth a perpetuall commendation: likewise diuers men of that countrey were forced to ride vpon horses swimming also at least two miles euen to saue themselves: to speake truth, in this extremitie nothing was cared for but peoples liues, wherin as yet few are knowne to haue perished: for according to the custome of that countrey, they haue boates and other meanes alwaies in readinesse provided against the dangers of such overflowing waters, but of goods and cattell such a spoile was made in lesse then five dayes, that the losers thereof will hardly recover their former estates in seven yeeres following; God of his mercy pittie their cases, and in his bounty relieve their wants, for great poverty is now fallen vpon the wofull inhabitants of that countrey: Behold I say, the estate of man, one day rich, the next day poore: the one day alive, the next day dead: no certainty of this worlds prosperitie, no assurance of wealth, all things variable, all in a moment destroyed.

Let vs call to minde the like mishap some five yeeres since in the West parts of England, where the waters of the Sea were violently driven ouer their Bankes by a

Lamentable Newes

South west wind, as these were opposite to them with a North east, where likewise many a wealthy village sustained much hurt, hardly recovered at this day: now Lincolnshire thy sorowes may compare with theirs, the waters haue emptied thy pastures of increasing cattell, as they did their fields; such is the cruelty of this liquid element, for if it is rebell and get beyond his bounds, it is able to inuade a whole kingdome, ouerturne Townes & Towers, and deuoure by all liuing creatures therein remaining: let this one thing following be a sufficient president, to make knowne the strength of these headstrong waters, straying from their soueraigne Prince the maine ocean, for the aboundance thereof came into the lowe marsh grounds of that countrey, with such sodaine violence, that a strong built house, wholly as it stood, without splitting or seperation, was borne like a ship vpon the waters, two miles from the place where it first was builded, the people remaining therein hauing no hurt, but safely set vpon a hill side, and so preserved from the further danger: Another strange accident happened in the same County. The salt waters, most seafaring affirme, are of a greater strength then the fresh or the land water, and is able to beare by what others will suffer to sinke, so was it here approued, for a woman lying in childbed, was borne with her child, bed and all safely floating vpon the waters, with the house wherein shee remained lying, for her best safety, in a close boarded chamber, vntill such time as the waters abated and so miraculously preserved from death. It is also to bee maruailed, that at the last, when the waters fell, and returned to their owne abiding, which is the sea, there were found vpon the land abundance of fish of diuers sorts, which the waters had left behind, the like seldome seene or heard of: Contrariwise, the sea made an exchange, and for her fish, receined into her watery womb the like number of flesh: as horse, kine, sheepe, swine and such

out of Lincolneshire.

such like, to the great hinderance of that part of this Kingdome.

I will not griene the owners with the remembrance of their losses in other goods, as cozne, hay, and other household stuffe: as bedding, linnen, woollen, and such like, which these turbulent waters spread abroad, and made prizes to pilfering Macabonds, it is a lamentable case, when the two elements of Fire and Water gets liberty, for then is no mercy, but meere confusion.

Not onely Lincolneshire can complaine of the seas oppression, but diuers countries bordering vpon her shores, which the easterne part of Essex can well witnes: what goodly grounds and fayre pastures haue ben there overflowed: what herds of kine and sheepe haue been there drowned: what long time spent for the recovery, to the great charge and halfe binding of the owners, nay further a hinderance to the whole Countrey.

With grieve of heart I now call to minde, the great losse and hinderance of an honourable Lord of this land, hapning this present month of Nouember, in the said County of Essex, where many a hundred akers of gallant ground, closing vpon the sea coast, is quite overflowed, standing now like a white Sea, hardly euer to be recovered, a losse of many thousand pennes, which might haue releued the estates of many thousands of poore people: God is angry with vs, in changing this land habitation, into a watery ocean, which by little and little, seekes to scale the whole earth into hir insarchable and depe circumference.

Goodwin sands vpon the borders of Kent is likewise one of the Seas cruelties, which sucking sandy gulfe hath deuoured so many goodly Ships, many other breaches giues the Sea passage into the Land threatening our destruction. The wealthy Riuer Thames presents vnto our remembrance diuers violent passages of water, which
from

Lamentable Newes &c.

from time to time begets feare and care vnto our Countrey, toynd with a continuall toyle for the recouerie.

Come nearer home to our famous Citie of London, and thinke vpon the strange tydes there swelling, this last weeke this beginning of November, almost still remaining before our eyes, how at Quene-Viue the water flowed into the Speale-market, and boze sakes and vessels of meale vband downe the Streets, and drowned many vaults and sellers, to the great hurt and spoile of much goods and commodities. God of his mercy keep vnder this outrageous element, let it not gather head and gos beyond the bounds: for being kept vnder government, it is a swete good, and comfort to vs all, so is the element of fire, both good being well vsed, and both euill if once abused, from the which if they once get command,

let vs vse this proverbe or rather Prayer,
from fire and water good Lord

deliuer vs.

FINIS.

23 IY 88

